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OTTAWA

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Wednesday, December 19,
2012



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Ottawa to host figure skating championships

On ice. Tickets for 100th anniversary competition in 2014 to go on sale in spring 2013



JOE LOFARO
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Minto Skating Club members Jeff Hough and Samantha Glavine glided gracefully across the Rink of Dreams, Tuesday morning, in a dazzling performance, giving Ottawans a taste of what is to come in 2014.

Skate Canada announced at city hall the 2014 Canadian Tire National Figure Skating Championships will be held at Scotiabank Place from Jan. 9 to 15.

The event will mark the 100th anniversary of the competition, which started at the Minto Skating Club in 1914.

Elizabeth Manley, 1988 Olympic silver medallist and three-time Canadian champion, attended the announcement along with Mayor Jim Watson and Skate Canada

president Benoît Lavoie.

Watson said after the announcement he wants to make this an even bigger event by expanding it to the Rideau Canal, the Rink of Dreams and other hockey sites.

"It's something we should be proud of as Canadians," said Watson. "We're a skating city, and to have the national championships in their hundredth year right here in Ottawa is pretty special."

He expects a \$4-million economic impact from the weeklong spectacle. It comes at just the right time from a tourism perspective because January is usually a slow time for visitors to the city, he added.

"Winterlude doesn't start until February, the House of Commons doesn't sit in January, you don't have as much business travel, so this comes at a perfect time," he said.

The 2014 competition will be the final qualification opportunity for athletes to be named to represent Canada at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.



Minto Skating Club members Jeff Hough, 17, and Samantha Glavine, 15, perform on the Rink of Dreams Tuesday morning after Skate Canada announced the 2014 Canadian Tire National Figure Skating Championship will be held in Ottawa. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Strikes loom in 2013

Teachers' unions announced more strikes in the new year if the province imposes a contract on them

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Sex slurs spark riot

An anonymous Instagram account with images of teenage girls being called "sluts" and "whores" leads to violence in Sweden

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Chestnuts a part of the holiday tradition

But roasting them on an open fire isn't your only option. Try barbecuing or sautéing them

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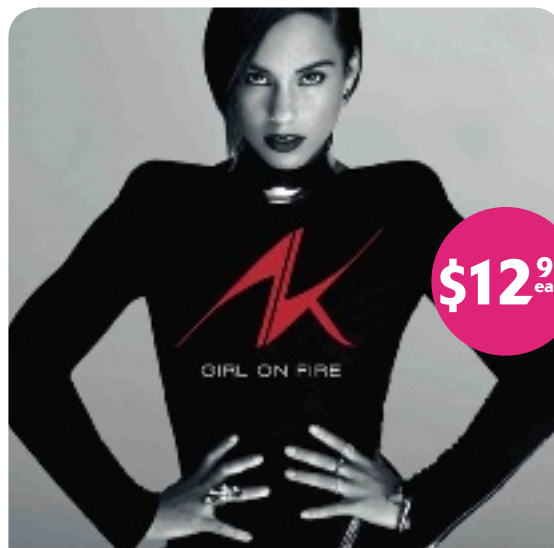
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\$6 M shy. United Way campaign extends into 2013

On track for its \$30 million target, the United Way is extending its 2012 fundraising campaign.

The charity organization announced Tuesday that its 2012 community campaign would extend three months into 2013. United Way Ottawa has raised \$24 million since Sept. 27, \$6 million shy of its target for the year. United Way spokesman Barry Keegan said that number only includes actual donations processed, not the 20 per cent or so the organization expects to receive in the new year.

Keegan said the organization always continued to collect funds until the fiscal year-end, and this is an "extension" only in the sense that their campaign-end event will take place in 2013.

"This year, we decided going out that we'd run (the campaign) right to our financial year-end," said Keegan. "The books don't close and folks continue to donate (to) us, and why don't we just wrap it up at the end and just make it clearer for everybody."

The organization raised \$32.3 million in its 2011 campaign, shy of its \$33.1 million goal. In 2010, the organization raised \$31.5 million with a goal of \$33.5 million.

Keegan said the organization is using a new accounting method, and so the numbers are not directly comparable.

Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury, one of the campaign co-chairs this year, said the organization is being more flexible to account for campaigns starting in the New Year. But for those with Christmas shopping left to do, Fleury plugged giftchange.ca. Donations can be made at unitedwayottawa.ca, or by phone at 613-228-6767.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO



Victoria Ozimkowski, a fourth-year geography student at Carleton University, said she is volunteering at the school chaplaincy's food table to give back to students whose emotional and financial wells are running dry during exam time. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Free-food program fuels students

**Carleton University
Chaplaincy food table.**
Loans run out for some
students, while others
apparently simply
forget to eat during
busy time of year



GRAHAM
LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

It all started with a plate of homemade muffins and a coffee carafe to help students get through their exams, but demand has grown this year for a free-food table that helps students through the toughest time of year.

"The need has always

been there, it's just being recognized," said Pat Brush, treasurer at St. Giles Presbyterian Church and co-ordinator of the food table provided by Carleton University's Ecumenical Chaplaincy, noting that a few years ago the table served 400 students and is now feeding close to 1,400 daily.

"The loans don't make it till the end of the semester," she said. "Students run out of money or they're going home for Christmas and don't want to have groceries rotting in their fridge. There are others who just forget to eat."

Last year, one student collapsed during their exam for lack of food, Brush said. "They had to call the paramedics and move the exam

Quoted

"The loans don't make it till the end of the semester."

Pat Brush, treasurer at St. Giles Presbyterian Church and co-ordinator of the Carleton chaplaincy's food table on why some students need assistance at the end of the term.

to a different room. By feeding them, we help to calm them down. One of the exam proctors told us last year that she can tell which students have been to the table."

For the past 20 years, the table, organized by local church groups, has appeared during exams every semester and expanded its offering from muffins to a host

of homemade sandwiches, baked goods and fresh fruit for students free of charge. "We're bringing more food now, but we're not meeting the total need of the students," said Rev. Wayne Menard of the chaplaincy, noting that the number of churches involved has grown to 25.

"For me, I'm dead broke right now," said Victoria Ozimkowski, a fourth-year geography student who is volunteering time at the table alongside many elderly churchgoers who make the food from scratch. "For a lot of students, this is when their budget is running out," she said. "I'm a rower and last year one of my teammates spent all of December living off just carrots. It was all she was able to buy."

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Teachers' unions plan illegal strikes

New-year action.

Minister of education denounces union leadership for egging on rank and file



GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Teachers' unions announced more strikes are on the way in the new year if a contract is imposed on them by the province.

"It's unlikely to be a rotating strike, more likely a provincewide day of protest," said Harvey Bischof, vice-president of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation.

"It's not a job action but a day away from school."

Yet any walkout would be illegal under a new contract the government could impose on elementary and high school teachers as early as Dec. 31 through Bill 115.

The bill bars teachers from striking for two years, hands them a wage freeze and cuts benefits.



Teachers participate in a one-day strike over Bill 115 in Toronto on Tuesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Any strike, once a collective agreement's in place, would be an illegal wildcat strike action," said Minister of Education Laurel Broten in a radio interview Tuesday.

"I think it's irresponsible for Sam Hammond and the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario leadership to be encouraging their members to pursue illegal strike activity."

Elementary teachers planned to picket the Liberal leadership debate at Carleton University Tuesday.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ottawa's young soccer elite

Ottawa soccer player Adrienne Li takes the pitch in this undated photo. Li is participating with some of the country's best young players in Soccer Canada's U15 National Identification Camp in Vaughan, Ont., this week. A Grade 10 student at école secondaire publique Louis-Riel, Li is the fifth student from the school's sports-concentration program to be selected for the national camp since 2007. CONTRIBUTED

Conflict of interest. Calls to ban developer cash in city elections continue

A group of community associations don't intend to give up on their quest to ban developer cash in municipal election campaigns.

The 30-odd associations are calling for a complete ban of cash donations from developers to municipal councillors' and candidates' election campaigns.

"It's not like federal or provincial campaigns where there are many layers between a given industry and the actual elected representative," said Jay Baltz of the Hintonburg Community Association on Tuesday. "At the municipal level, these councillors are directly approving or not approving individual applications on planning committee."

The suggestion is part of a set of four recommendations the associations are suggesting to overhaul the city's planning-approval process.

The associations also want an immediate ban on the practice of hiring consultants from development firms involved in planning applications, an immediate ban on councillors signaling approval of a project in confidential

Persistence

"I think they're just hoping it will go away. We're not intending to let it go away."

Jay Baltz of the Hintonburg Community Association on city council

pre-consultation meetings and to enshrine the city's Official Plan in law.

The issue was last brought forward in 2009. Councillors Steve Desroches, Shad Qadri, Diane Deans, Eli El-Chantiry, Peter Hume, Bob Monnette, Jan Harder, Marian Wilkinson and Maria McRae voted against it.

The only sitting councillor to vote for the motion was Rainer Bloess, who could not be reached for an interview on Tuesday. Council did vote, however, to post a list of donors for each individual councillor, which is publicly available online.

Baltz said that, even if council refuses to take up the issue, the associations will continue to bring it forward.

ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO

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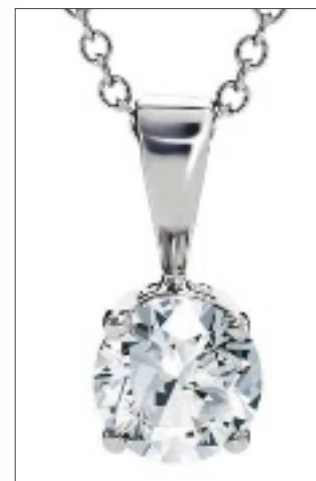
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Republicans open up to gun debate

Taking the first step. Gun manufacturers see shares continue to drop as politicians on both sides of the aisle shift stances following Friday's shooting

Some Republicans now say they're willing to discuss the politically treacherous issue of gun control, along with mental-health issues and violent video games, while President Barack Obama said he supports efforts in Congress to reinstate an assault-weapon ban in the wake of last week's Connecticut school shooting.

The massacre, one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history, has rattled the usual national dialogue on guns in America, where public opinion had shifted against tougher gun control in recent years, and the gun lobby is a power-

ful political force.

Obama has long supported reinstating the assault-weapon ban, which expired in 2004, but was quiet on the issue during his first term. He has said he believes the Constitution's Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms.

The president was not expected to take any formal action on guns before the end of the year, given the all-consuming efforts to resolve tax and deficit-reduction talks and nominate new cabinet secretaries.

The most powerful supporter of gun owners, the National Rifle Association, broke its silence Tuesday. After a self-imposed media blackout that left many wondering how it would respond to the killings, it said in a statement that its members were "shocked, saddened and heartbroken by the news of the horrific and senseless murders."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Susan Sheperd wipes a tear as she stands with friends and co-workers at the funeral for James Mattioli, 6, who died in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings. Funerals were held for Mattioli and Jessica Rekos, 6, who were among the 26 people killed when Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown on Dec. 14 and opened fire. CRAIG RUTTLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A complicated issue

"Put guns on the table ... put video games on the table, put mental health on the table."

Republican congressman Jack Kingston

Quebec. Slain teacher's relatives call American gun laws 'revolting'

The Newtown school massacre has left grieving Canadian relatives of one murdered teacher denouncing American gun laws.

Several of the Rousseau family in Quebec's Eastern Townships will be going down to Connecticut for the funeral of Lauren Rousseau, a substitute teacher whose father was born in Quebec.

"It's revolting how easy it is to obtain firearms — that's

what's so infuriating," said the victim's uncle, Francois Rousseau. He and several relatives will be heading down for the funeral of his brother's daughter.

Lauren Rousseau, 30, was born in the U.S. Her Canadian-born father, Gilles, told Radio-Canada that he wanted to see his daughter's body, but was informed by authorities that it would not be possible.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bushmaster rifles

Firearms maker put up for sale

The largest firearms maker in the United States said Tuesday it is being put up for sale by its owner, which called last week's school shooting a "watershed event" in the national debate over gun control. Freedom Group International makes Bushmaster rifles, the weapon thought to have been used in Friday's killings.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Defending himself'

Student, 11, brings gun to school

Authorities say an 11-year-old boy caught with a gun at school in Utah told administrators he brought the weapon to defend himself in case of an attack similar to the mass shooting last week at a Connecticut elementary school. School officials say the boy has been arrested. No one was injured.

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The scene outside a school in Sweden where a riot erupted after an Instagram account posted images of teenage girls, calling them "sluts" and "whores." HENRIK BRUNNSGARD/METRO SWEDEN

Instagram sex slur sparks riot at school

Anonymous posting.

Mounted police move in as anger explodes after teenage girls were called 'sluts' and 'whores'

Quoted

"It is insane. It is completely unacceptable to say things like this about people."

Kirsi Niemi,
mother of student Janina Niemi

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Metro World News in Sweden

An anonymous Instagram account that posted images of teenage girls and called them "sluts" and "whores" has sparked riots outside a Swedish high school.

The account showed more than 200 images of teens reportedly as young as 13.

It contained details of alleged sexual activity.

Hundreds of teens gathered outside Plusgymnasiet high school in Gothenburg where the alleged owner of the account is believed to attend.

Police, some on horseback, went to the school as students threw objects and jumped on cars, witnesses said.

YouTube footage shows a large group scuffling.

At the high school, one girl was hit in the face, another was attacked and kicked by four girls, a witness told Metro.

"The teachers cried out and there was a panic on the whole school. It was so sick," said 17-year old student Janina Niemi, who was in the canteen when the fracas began.

"I saw one girl being kicked in the head. She was on the ground, there were four against one."

Some 27 people were arrested.

A 17-year old girl has been taken into custody. The girl is suspected of having started the Instagram account.

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Suspects in maple syrup heist nabbed



Police say they have recovered two-thirds of the maple syrup stolen from a Quebec warehouse last summer. ISTOCK PHOTO

Sticky fingers. Three people arrested in connection with theft of 2.7 million kilos of sweet, sweet inventory

There have been arrests in the case of a massive maple syrup heist, police announced Tuesday as they celebrated a break in their months-long multi-jurisdictional search for the stolen sticky stuff.

Three people have been detained in connection with the theft of a large quantity of the national condiment from a warehouse in Quebec.

About 2.7 million kilos of maple syrup was reported

missing after a routine inventory check last summer. Or, if your preferred unit of measurement is pancakes, the stolen amount would have provided a one-tablespoon topping for a whopping 183 million flapjacks.

Police say they have now recovered most of the missing syrup. They have also seized vehicles suspected of being used in the trafficking operation and equipment like scales and electronic lifts.

Those arrested are expected to face charges in a Trois-Rivières courtroom of theft, conspiracy, fraud and trafficking in stolen goods Tuesday.

There are arrest warrants out for five other people.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death row

Judge spares obese inmate

The decision by Ohio's governor to spare a morbidly obese death row inmate on legal grounds unrelated to the prisoner's weight means executions will likely carry on in the state next year.

Gov. John Kasich on Monday commuted the death sentence of Ronald Post to life without the possibility of parole, sparing him for the 1983 shooting death of Elyria motel clerk Helen Vantz. Kasich's decision to grant Post mercy mirrored the recommendation by the state parole board, which said there were too many problems with how he was represented 30 years ago.

Had the governor considered the argument used in Federal court — that executing Post would amount to cruel and unusual punishment — other death row inmates may have been able to use the same argument.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Corrupting morals'

Gore artist testifies

A Quebec special-effects artist charged with corrupting morals has defended himself in court, testifying that his gory works constitute art. Remy Couture testified on his own behalf at a jury trial being heard Tuesday in Montreal. Couture, 35, said the horror website he ran, Inner Depravity, which brought to life a psychopathic killer character he created, is artistic and not pornographic.

He is charged with three counts of corrupting morals by distributing, possessing and producing obscene materials—hundreds of photos and a pair of videos—in a case that explores the boundaries of artistic expression and Canadian obscenity laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Policy change

Instagram says
photos won't end
up in advertising

Instagram, the popular photo-sharing service that Facebook bought this year, says it will revise a planned update to its service agreement after confusion about its intent led to widespread user complaints.

At issue is whether users' photos can be part of advertisements, on and off

Instagram. The company said in a blog post Tuesday that it has no plans to put users' photos in advertisements.

That said, Instagram maintains that it was created to become a business and would like to experiment with various forms of advertisements to make money.

After the company posted its new terms of service on Monday, it became the target of a storm of outrage on Twitter and other sites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air Canada Rouge takes flight July 1

Discount travel. New carrier will focus on leisure travel market, with destinations in Europe, Caribbean

Air Canada is jumping into the low-cost leisure-travel market with the launch of its new Rouge airline, which will begin flying on Canada Day to destinations in Europe and the Caribbean.

The airline will start with flights from Toronto to Venice and Edinburgh — two destinations that currently aren't served by Air Canada — and will serve Athens from Toronto and Montreal.

Air Canada's existing flights to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Costa Rica will be flown by the discount carrier from Toronto.

The destinations are areas where demand for leisure travel has been growing, said Ben Smith, Air Canada's chief commercial officer. But many



Air Canada's chief commercial officer Ben Smith, right, and Michael Friisdahl, CEO of Air Canada Leisure Group, second right, unveil new leisure airline Air Canada Rouge in downtown Toronto on Tuesday. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

are routes that didn't generate adequate profits under Air Canada's existing cost structure.

"The creation of this carrier is to assist us in serving many destinations that our existing model does not work on a competitive basis," Smith said.

The airline says flights to Venice, Edinburgh and Athens start at "special introductory

fares" of \$949 round-trip, including all taxes, fees, charges and surcharges.

Flights to the Dominican Republic and Jamaica will start at \$269, one-way, while Cuba is offered starting at \$538 round-trip. All the introductory fares, which are available until Dec. 25, are based on Toronto departures. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BVO. Drink additive is safe, Health Canada says

Major soft-drink makers and Health Canada say the use of brominated vegetable oil in Canadian beverages is safe, despite a growing movement elsewhere to ban its use.

The additive, which is used to cloud and stop separation in some drinks, has been banned in most of Europe for decades and Japan recently discontinued its use. However, BVO continues to be used in popular drinks sold in Canada, including some flavours of Gatorade, Powerade, Fresca, Mountain Dew and Amp Energy Drink.

BVO is classified as a food additive, but there is limited knowledge of its composition, researchers have said. It does contain bromine, which is also in flame retardants and has been found to build up in body lipids. A Health Canada spokesman said there are no health risks associated with BVO when it is used according to regulations, which sets out that 15 parts per million can be used in citrus or spruce-flavoured beverages.

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When shoppers hit 'like,' retailers listen

Social media. Stores decide what products to stock up on and what deals to offer based on online feedback

Facebook isn't just for goofy pictures and silly chatter. Whether shoppers know it or not, their actions online help dictate what's in stores during this holiday season.

After polling customers on the social-media site, Macy's decided to carry denim jeans in bright neon hues rather than pastels. Walmart for the first time decided to let customers vote on which toys they want

discounted. And to better plan orders for the decorative flags she sells, a small-business owner in Mississippi is running a contest that encourages customers to chime in about how they're decorating their homes this winter.

The impact of social media on a company's bottom line is tough to quantify, with no hard data on how millions of Facebook fans and Twitter followers translate into sales for stores.

But during the holiday shopping season, a roughly two-month period when retailers can make up to 40 per cent of their annual revenue, stores are uncovering a valuable use for all the seemingly useless online muttering — market research.

The result is that whenever

Part of the process

- Rather than simply using social media to tout promotions and new products, companies are just now realizing the value of making

customers feel as though they're part of the decision-making process, said Jennifer Kasper, who heads digital media at Macy's.

folks press the "like" button to give their seal of approval to a particular company's page or make a comment on how much they like the leather boots they just bought, they're helping everyone from independently owned small shops to the biggest retailers make decisions about what products to stock up on, what to play up on the sales floor and what promotions to offer online.

For the first time this year, one of Macy's Inc.'s apparel buyers suggested the company solicit feedback on Facebook on which colours it should stock for Else brand jeans ahead of the holiday season. Several weeks later, with about 2,500 "likes" and 750 comments, colours in bright blue, orange and red were declared the victor over softer shades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this Nov. 22 photo, a shopper uses her smartphone at a Best Buy store in Florida. By using social media, consumers can influence what products retailers carry during the crucial holiday buying season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



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CUDDLE PARTY MARKS END OF WORLD



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Looking for something to do the day the world ends?

How about a Cuddle Party? There's one on the Last Day, this coming Friday, somewhere in Calgary. To ward off kuddle

krashers, you don't get to know the final location until you pay your 20 bucks and sign up. Then, apparently, you turn up in your pyjamas ready to cuddle. Or not.

WTF? You don't know about Cuddle Parties? Well, let me bring you up to speed. The Cuddle Party is the brainchild of two New York relationship counsellors (you're surprised?), Reid Mihalko and Marcia Baczynski, who started them in their "tiny Manhattan apartment" in 2004. They spread immediately to the Left Coast, and from there to Vancouver and Calgary, the apparent, er, hot bed of Canadian cud-dling.

In a nutshell

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Those eastern bastards may have to freeze in the dark, but Calgary has Cuddle Power to keep it warm.

The idea is to bring a bunch of people together, most of them total strangers, and create a group grope that stays on the disappointing side of sexuality throughout.

Organizers are adamant. No sex. According to the Rules (and there are plenty of them), if you get turned on, just wait and it will go

away. So they say. Just to make sure: no alcohol or shorts allowed. Pyjamas with drawstrings — this is a lace-free zone.

The first 40 minutes of the event involves a presentation on How to Cuddle, giving leery participants enough time to work up the courage to cuddle some guy you might not care to sit next to on the bus, especially considering the way he's looking at you.

But don't worry! By the end of the evening, you'll have discovered the Joy of Cuddling and will be prepared to cuddle anyone or anything. Or not. One of the features of the Cuddle Party is that it offers participants an opportunity to learn how to say NO in the clinch. Each touch essentially has to be negotiated in advance. If the cuddlee says yes (not yes! yes! yes!) then the cuddler can proceed with some respectful, non-sexual touching.

This advanced course in touching strangers leads to a lot of (painfully) sincere, convoluted language from participant testimonials on the website cuddlepary.com about learning to say no in order to say yes, or is it the other way around? And about how cuddling is not always about sex and various other things guys will say when they hope to get lucky.

Look, I can't think of anything I'd rather do less on my last day on Earth than cuddle with the cast of Portlandia, but that's just me. I can Just Say No, can't I?

But you go ahead and get to yes. Just remember, that's all you're getting.



If you haven't heard of Cuddle Parties yet, get well acquainted. CUDDLEPARTY.COM

This looks a bit fishy



KIM PRESTON/REX FEATURES

'Animal' photography

Plastic shot to look like sea creatures

This image of odd-looking sea creatures would have marine biologists baffled, but it in fact shows an everyday object shot to represent sea animals. The project, titled Plastic Pacific, was created by Australian artist Kim Preston, 33, who wanted to draw attention to the devastating effect of plastic buildup in oceans around the globe. **METRO**

Artist's viewpoint

"I hoped that the prettiness of the images would draw people in more than if I showed the far uglier reality."

Kim Preston, digital designer and illustrator, 33, from Melbourne
Passionate about the preservation of our oceans, Preston added that "this is a photographically based rant against the irresponsible overuse of plastic. I recently obtained a scuba-diving certificate in Indonesia and seeing all of the plastic caught on the reefs inspired this project."

Process of photograph

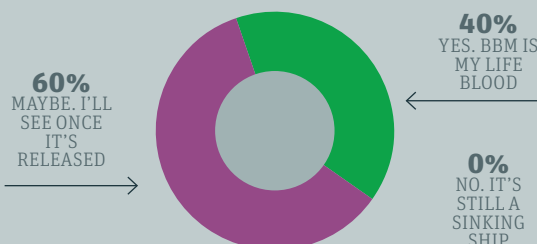
Creativity used to shoot under budget

Shot in her garden shed, Preston used a blue fabric as the backdrop and hung all the objects from a clothes rack while she photographed them. For the shower caps, she would quickly blow into them before snapping a shot with a wireless shutter release. She had planned to shoot the series inside a fish tank, but her lack of budget forced her to become more creative. **METRO**



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RIM's BlackBerry 10 is getting rave reviews.
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@KathrynMomot: Snow and my hair do not get along. Clearly one of us need to get out of Ottawa. #Now

@carsonlee8: I swear no matter what I do it's never enough

@ginachong: Jazz band playing in the arrivals at ottawa airport #fancy #holidays #sowelcoming

@GenuineJenn: Looking for zombie books for my son who is 6. Suggestions?

@kateboychuk: Cleaned the house, baked and did no work ...sounds like the holiday's to me :)

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End of the world viewing

The end of the world may or may not be upon us, but Hollywood has been preparing us for this moment for decades. The higher the stakes, the bigger the drama, and there's no higher stakes than the fate of the entire world. So here's our picks for the best movies about the end of the world.

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

1. Children of Men (2006)

Alfonso Cuarón's adaptation of P.D. James' novel about a world unraveling after women stop being able to get pregnant is a masterpiece, a gripping and hyper-realistic look at how society deals with calamity. The real tragedy is how little attention it got upon its release. Watch it now, while you still have time.



2. Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying

and Love the Bomb (1964)



Stanley Kubrick made it OK to laugh in the face of possible nuclear annihilation with this pointed satire of escalation and mutually assured destruction, culminating with Slim Pickens' famous ride on a warhead.

3. Melancholia (2011)

Dazzling visuals and an impressive, against-type performance by Kirsten Dunst buoy this divisive film from Lars von Trier about a family trying to get through a wedding while a rogue planet hurtles toward Earth, threatening total annihilation.



4. The Cabin in the Woods (2012)



Spoiler alert: Drew Goddard's hilarious, twist-filled take on horror movies (co-written by Joss Whedon) is more than it seems.

5. Night of the Comet (1984)

Call it the Omega Valley Girls. In this sci-fi horror-comedy gem, two no-nonsense teenage sisters contend with zombies in the fallout of the titular comet reducing Los Angeles to rubble.



6. Last Night (1998)

A quiet, delightful indie precursor to Seeking a Friend for the End of the World, Don McKeller's film gives a distinctly Canadian look at the end of the world. Toronto residents have had months to prepare, so there's little need for panic.



7. The Road (2009)



A gut-punch of a film, John Hillcoat's screen adaptation is just as chilling and stark as the Cormac McCarthy novel on which it is based. The world may not actually end in this one, but from the looks of what's become of things, it might as well have.

8. Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (2012)

A refreshing take on the asteroid headed to Earth plot, this road movie with Steve Carell and Keira Knightley is surprisingly charming — and features a barrage of comic cameos as the main characters head out across the country with three weeks to live.



9. On the Beach (1959)



Long before CGI could render total destruction in realistic detail, we had Gregory Peck and Ava Gardner waiting out the end in Australia after a global nuclear war in this Cold War-era drama, notable for its non-Hollywood ending.

10. Deep Impact (1998)

In a year that brought competing projects about an asteroid on a collision course with the Earth, the scrappy Deep Impact is actually the superior movie to Michael Bay's bloated, Aerosmith-ballad-filled Armageddon if for no other reason than it gave us President Morgan Freeman. Also, points for casting Elijah Wood.

Week of Armageddon

Check out Metro all week for more stories of apocalyptic proportions.



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Robert Smigel, left, gives advice to Paul Rudd in *This Is 40*, an unfiltered, comedic look inside the life of an American family from writer/director/producer Judd Apatow. HANDOUT

'It's gonna be cold, it's gonna be grey, and it's gonna last you for the rest of your life'

Movies. The classic Bill Murray quote stands the test of time as the latest mid-life crisis movie, *This is 40*, arrives this weekend



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Forty isn't old, but Leslie Mann and Paul Rudd, the leads in the new Judd Apatow comedy *This is 40*, are confronting middle age and not always liking what they see.

Mid-life ruts have supplied the basis for many movies.

The best-known age-angst film has to be *American Beauty*. Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey, who won a best actor Oscar for his work) has a classic case of the mid-life blues. Depressed, he allows himself to be pushed around by his employer and

his wife and he's developed an unhealthy crush on his daughter's friend. To restart his life, he quits his job, blackmails his boss and deals with his wife's infidelity.

"I feel like I've been in a coma for the past 20 years," he says. "And I'm just now waking up."

Things don't work out well for Lester, but weatherman Phil Connors's (Bill Murray) mid life crisis has a better outcome.

At the beginning of *Groundhog Day* he's a drunk, suicide prone curmudgeon who sums up his outlook like this, "I'll give you a winter prediction: It's gonna be cold, it's gonna be grey, and it's gonna last you for the rest of your life."

When he starts living the same day over and over again, however, he begins to see the beauty of life.

Bill Murray is also forced to reflect on his existence in *Broken Flowers*, when he receives a mysterious letter telling him of a son he didn't know about.

"Well, the past is gone, I know that," he says. "The future isn't here yet, whatever it's going to be. So, all there is, is this. The present. That's it."

Mid-life crises aren't the domain of men, however.

In *The Bridges of Madison County*, Meryl Streep plays Francesca, an Iowa housewife who shatters the midlife doldrums by having a brief but meaningful affair with National Geographic photographer Robert Kincaid (played by Clint Eastwood). Of her affair she says, "everything I knew to be true about myself up until then was gone. I was acting like another woman, yet I was more myself than ever before."

The best-loved mid-life movie might be *Shirley Valentine*, the bittersweet tale of an English housewife who leaves her humdrum existence behind for a happier life in the Greek islands.

"I used to be The Mother," she says. "I used to be The Wife. But now I'm Shirley Valentine again."

Movie Review

A Guilt Trip down the middle lane

The Guilt Trip

Director. Anne Fletcher

Stars. Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand

What made *The Guilt Trip* an interesting premise also ultimately works against it. Sure, crafting a road-trip comedy with Barbra Streisand as mother to Seth Rogen's coddled adult son may attract fans from disparate



camp, but by skirting down the middle, the comedy ends up compromised for both sides.

Ultimately, the Babs side

wins as Streisand's overbearing Jewish matriarch makes Rogen look like he's just holding back.

STEVE GOW/METRO

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Channing Tatum's wife Jenna Dewan-Tatum has a bun in the oven.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

'Sexiest Man Alive' reproducing

Capping off an amazing year that's included several hit movies and a Sexiest Man Alive title, Channing Tatum is now gearing up for fatherhood. Tatum's wife, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, is expecting the couple's first child sometime next year, their rep con-

firmed to People magazine. And it may not be the last.

"I'm ready. I think she's ready," Tatum recently told the magazine. "The first number that pops into my head is three, but I just want one to be healthy and then we'll see where we go after that."

The Word

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Beckham?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, David and Victoria Beckham's son Romeo Beckham is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign, joining a long list of models and stars who have fronted ads for the house. "We had such fun shooting the campaign and I think that comes through in the images, which really reflect the upbeat spirit of the collection," Burberry's creative director Christopher Bailey says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they wanted to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?

In other news:
A 2012 coming-out recap

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist.
How: In an email to blogger



Bend it like Burberry?

Andrew Sullivan.

What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself and proud."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four pre-seasons with three NFL teams.

How: In an interview with Outsports.com.

What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family."

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck.

How: Just by appearing on Honey Boo Boo.

What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."



Zooe Deschanel and Death Cab for Cutie's Benjamin Gibbard are never, ever, getting back together.

Cutie divorce finalized

Zooe Deschanel's marriage to Death Cab for Cutie frontman Benjamin Gibbard is officially over, with the former couple formalizing their divorce in a Los Angeles court last week, just over a month

after separating, according to E! News. And the New Girl star appears to already be moving on, having been spotted recently walking hand-in-hand with new screenwriter boyfriend Jamie Linden.

Hacker to the stars gets 10 years in prison

Christopher Chaney, the man responsible for hacking the email accounts of more than 50 celebrities and posting their intimate photos online, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to E! News.

Chaney was also

ordered to pay restitution fees of \$66,179 by the judge, who admonished Chaney for his "callous disregard to his victims" during the hearing. His famous victims included Scarlett Johansson, Miley Cyrus, Jessica Alba and Mila Kunis.



Mila Kunis was one of hacker Christopher Chaney's victims.

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This holiday season, think South Pole instead of North

Icy wonderland. While Santa's homeland might be on our minds right now, Antarctica's unspoiled landscape beckons travellers

DOUG WALLACE
life@metronews.ca

Who owns Antarctica? The penguins, of course — several million of them (cute little devils, too). At 1.4 times the size of Canada, the seventh continent to tick off your bucket list is rich with incredible wildlife, pristine vistas and amazing history. With the season stretching from the end of November to the beginning of March, and January temps hovering at zero around the northern part of the Antarctic Peninsula, this trip south could be your chance to be a real snowbird this winter.

The starting gate

The expedition begins with an overnight in Ushuaia, a small city of 65,000 at the bottom of Argentina that bills itself as the "city at the end of the world." Just a few kilometres from Tierra del Fuego National Park, it was originally founded as a prison colony, and the old prison has been converted into a museum complex, which includes a full wing on Antarctica.

The ship

Most of the cruise ships that serve Antarctica are a smaller variety; great for squeezing through ice-filled canals. Toronto-based Quark Expeditions has been ferrying people across the notorious Drake Passage for 20 years, with a comfortably high guest-to-crew ratio and an ex-

cellent track record. On-board experts share their knowledge of ornithology, marine biology, zoology and geology with insightful talks during down-times on the voyage down and back, as well as throughout the trip. Photography courses help guests get that perfect shot, and a wellness program includes yoga classes and massage therapy — both great for relieving backs left sore from a day of hiking and Zodiac boat rides around all the icebergs.

The crowd

A truly international crowd makes this trek — from the fleece-clad adventurers to the retirees bored with the Caribbean to the young marrieds getting in some travel miles before they start a family.

"Antarctica captures people's imagination regardless of their age, and people come with different goals," says Quark expedition leader David Wood.

Visiting scientists gathering data could well accompany you on your excursions, and are eager to talk about their work. Whether guests are gung-ho adventure types or a "contemplative" group that takes things easier, there is pretty much something for everyone.

The excursions

After two days at sea, when you reach land-ho, out come the Zodiac pontoon boats. Twice daily spins around the various harbours and bays, plus landings on islands that dot the Antarctic Peninsula as well as the continent itself, make for a flurry of activity. Sea kayaking is a great way to interact with the scenery and connect with the water and the wildlife. Penguin colonies, secluded bays of berg-filled waters, lazy seals on thick ice floes, majestic birds,



Hikes around the islands of Antarctica reveal breathtaking views. ALL PHOTOS: TIM STEWART

gorgeous glacial ice sculptures, rocky peaks — the photo ops are beyond stunning.

The eco-friendliness

All Antarctica tour operators uphold the same objectives to keep the region as pristine as possible, following directives outlined in The Antarctic Treaty, which was signed in 1959.

Among other things, this involves preventing the introduction of non-native species to the area, be it plants or disease.

Travellers step through a disinfecting boot bath getting on and off the ship. You leave zero evidence of ever having stepped on Antarctica, except for your footprint.



The penguins are the real stars of the cruise, entertaining travellers with their antics.

If you go...

- **Tours.** For 2013-2014, Quark Expeditions has a few new adventures, including a Greenland cruise and a Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctica voyage that departs from Buenos Aires. It features the first-ever Polar Floating Documentary Film Festival, and was just voted one of Wanderlust Travel magazine's 50 Best Trips of 2013. Check it all out at quarkexpeditions.com.



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Roasting chestnuts on an open fire...



THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Do people really roast chestnuts?

Yes, says Linda Grimo of Grimo Nut Nursery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. But the easiest way to do them is on the barbecue, she says. Nuts have been part of the holiday tradition for centuries, with both religious and pagan origins cited by various sources. Although cooks tend to incorporate them in dishes throughout the year, they are a staple of holiday entertaining.

Can-uts

The only two types of nuts grown here commercially are hazelnuts and heartnuts — in very small quantities. Peanuts also are grown, but they're not really nuts. They're a legume and part of the bean family. It's a mystery to Grimo. "Nuts are so easy to farm and very profitable," she says. But farmers have been slow to pick up on the opportunity.

Storage

Store-bought nuts in the shell or in jars can be stored at room temperature, but freshly harvested nuts have a high moisture content and need to dry out. Grimo advises people who pick black walnuts, for example, to hang them in a burlap sack in the furnace room for three weeks, preferably with a small fan near them to circulate air through the bag. Chestnuts are the exception and should always be stored in the refrigerator.

There are options aside from roasting

Saut ing peeled chestnuts in a frying pan is an alternative to barbecuing. If you boil them briefly first, the nuts will "pop right out" of the skin, says Grimo. She cooks them in butter for at least 10 minutes, adding sugar to caramelize them for a sweet treat or garlic or onions if she wants to add them to vegetable or meat dishes.

The weigh in

Nuts are very good for us, says dietitian Doug Cook, and since they all have different nutrients in varying degrees, eating a variety is best. Ounce for ounce, nuts contain between 150 and 200 calories. The number of servings per person should depend on age, activity level and body weight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DOUG COOK, DIETITIAN AND DIRECTOR OF THE TORONTO CHAPTER OF HEALTH-CASTLE.COM.**

Cocktails of the Week

Fig and Maple

Something about fig and maple syrup just goes together. And when you add a little liquor, you have a delicious and warming combination that is perfect for those nights when you're curled up in

front of the fire.

- 2 fresh or dried fig
- 1 tbsp ginger marmalade
- 1 oz hot water
- 2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 2 oz fresh lime juice
- 2 oz ginger beer
- 1 oz maple syrup

1. In a shaker, muddle fig with ginger marmalade and water. Add Bombay

Sapphire, fresh lime juice, ginger beer and maple syrup. Add ice and double strain into glass. **PHOTO AND RECIPE COURTESY BOMBAY SAPPHIRE**



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Halfway in and having some doubts?

School switcharoo.

It's not uncommon for mixed feelings to make their way into the minds of learners

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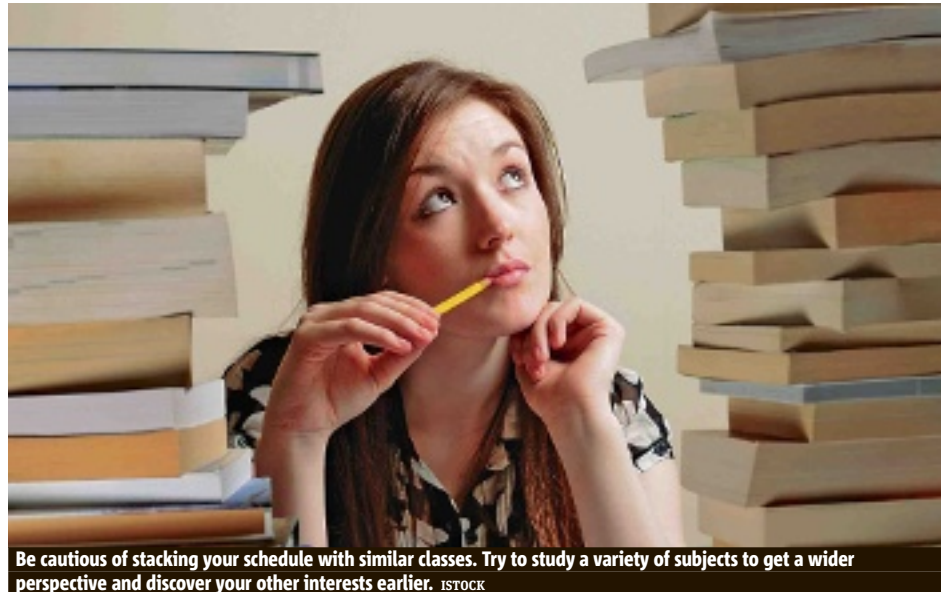
So your college or university major isn't what you thought it'd be. Maybe the career opportunities you thought you'd have haven't panned out. Or perhaps you've discovered a new interest.

Fall classes may be over, but there's still time to meet with an academic advisor and change your winter schedule to pursue a new major or specialization.

According to the University of Calgary, the majority of university students switch their majors at least once. Reasons why vary from not being hired to discovering new interests to just plain uncertainty.

What should you do if you're interested in something else?

It's easy to follow your friends, study what your parents tell you to or pursue a career based



Be cautious of stacking your schedule with similar classes. Try to study a variety of subjects to get a wider perspective and discover your other interests earlier. ISTOCK

on how much it pays. But you have to deal with your career choices, Toronto-based community manager Stephanie Fusco says.

Fusco studied politics at Queen's University and hoped to go to law school since she was in high school. But in a fourth-year political communications seminar, she realized that she loved strategy, speech writing and communications

more. She graduated from Queen's and later pursued her passion and earned a post-graduate certificate in public relations from Humber College.

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school," she says. "I'm sure I'm

doing what I'm supposed to do and my career is on a path I'm very happy with."

Maybe there's an aspect of your major you love. It may take some reflection or experimentation to figure it out, but try to pursue a degree and a career in the aspect that interests you the most, Fusco adds.

What should you do if you're not sure?

Drawn to different choices

"I knew I made the right choice when I found myself putting more effort into my Humber application than I was putting into worrying about whether I'd get into law school."

Stephanie Fusco
Toronto-based community manager

If you're unsure about your interests or aspirations, choose an undecided major. According to the University of California, students who enter college with an undeclared major change their focus fewer times than students who declare their major. So when you do make a decision, you'll make it count.

What should you do if you weren't recruited this fall?

Many large companies have already filled their entry level or leadership program positions by now. Don't panic if you haven't been hired. Take rejection as an opportunity to assess your inter-

ests, goals and options.

When an accounting firm didn't recruit Nick Guadagnolo last year, the then aspiring auditor and fourth-year accounting student at the Schulich School of Business enrolled in organizational behaviour and marketing classes in his final semester instead.

"An accounting specialization without a CA designation was not what I wanted," Guadagnolo says. "I excelled at, and quite frankly derived so much more pleasure from, the not-so-numerical aspects of the BBA degree."

He studied things like sports marketing, crisis management and operating a family business. He wrote the LSAT in June, applied to law school this fall, travelled frequently and continues to work part-time in HR. For Guadagnolo, there is credence to a plan of action that doesn't involve immediately jumping into the fray. It sounds scary now, but maybe the same applies to you too.

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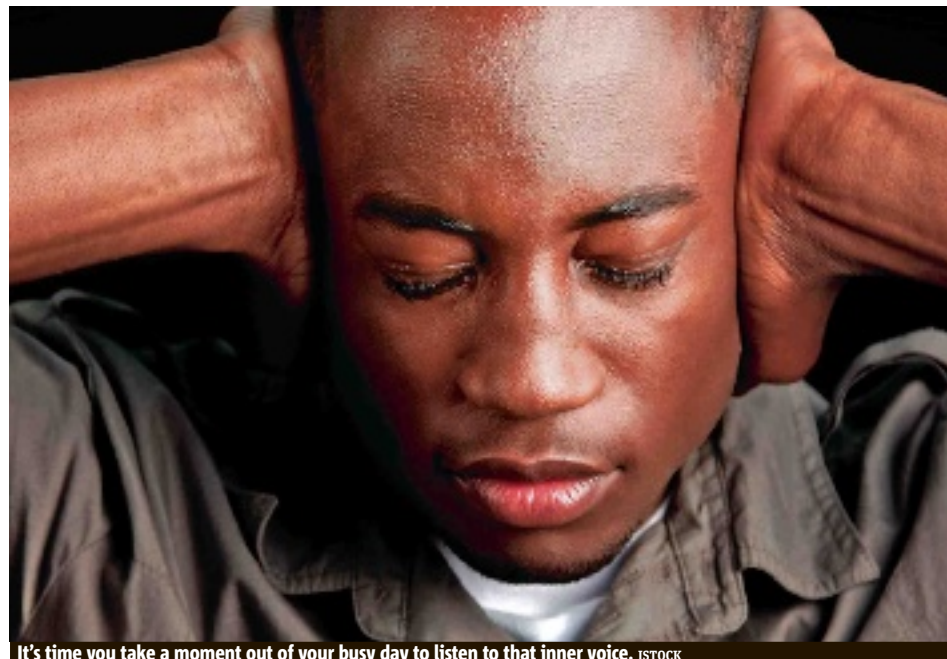
TalentEgg.ca

Moving to a new city for a job means leaving your old life behind and often throws you right into work, making it hard to achieve any semblance of a work-life balance.

When being the new kid in the office also coincides with being the new kid on the block, it is especially important that you don't let your work life take over your entire life. It's not good for your job and it's not good for you.

This year I experienced my first summer in Toronto and also my first summer working in the city. After weeks of devoting myself to my job and nothing but my job, I realized that gaining some balance not only made me more productive but it generally made me happier.

Julie Chandler, an executive with Robert Half International, says that work-life balance is



It's time you take a moment out of your busy day to listen to that inner voice. ISTOCK

one of the most important facets to performing well at work. "When I have that work-life balance, I go in the next day with a smile on my face because I'm happy to be back," she says.

According to a recent study by Regus PLC, more Canadian office workers feel that their work-life balance has im-

proved. However, in my experience, new hires often let work take over as they try to prove themselves in their new office.

Attempting to balance a fast-paced Toronto job with life in the big city taught me a few things about dividing my time between work and play. Through trial and error, here are the lessons I learned:

Make plans

After a long day at work it can be tempting to come home and slump down on the couch for the rest of the evening. While a little R&R is never a bad thing, it's important to break out of your work-to-home routine.

- Make plans with friends, go out after work and take in tourist attractions on the weekends. Working in the office followed by chores and passing out at home won't help make your job any more attractive. Put life back into your work-life balance and experience your city.

refreshed and ready to get back to my job. Taking coffee breaks and time for lunch also helps the day go by faster so rather than watching the clock tick by you actually have the energy and the drive to make the most of your time in the office.

Leave work at the office

In the age of social media and smart phones, work is no longer contained to the office. Assignments can roll in at any time, on any day with the click of a button.

However, it is important to make a distinction between work time and home time. Do you really need to be reading budget reports on Saturday morning or can it wait until Monday?

Job permitting, try to avoid checking your work emails during the weekends or evenings. If that isn't possible, then at the very least give yourself some tech-free hours over dinner or at the gym; anything that allows you to focus on something other than your ongoing projects.

every day without rest stops. After a few weeks of working on the permanent butt-imprint in my office chair, a co-worker approached me about having the same no-break problem. We decided to start eating lunch together, forcing each of us to step away from work for at least half an hour of banter over burgers.

The difference was astounding.

I returned to work feeling

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Canadian juniors not sleeping on jet-lag issues

Travel concerns. Trip to Ufa, Russia, just one more obstacle on road to world championship

The puck drop for Canada's first three games at the world junior hockey championship in Russia is 4:30 a.m. ET.

Host city Ufa is 10 to 14 hours ahead of the Canadian players' body clocks, depending on what part of the country they're from. A Canadian junior team hasn't travelled this far, or crossed this many time zones since the 2001 tournament in Moscow. Ufa is another 1,160 kilometres and two time zones to the southeast.

Jet lag and travel fatigue will be major challenges, barriers as significant on the road to gold as the Russians, Swedes and Americans.

Hockey Canada enlisted the expertise of Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels to



Canadian players, from left, Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Jonathan Huberdeau look on during team photos last Friday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

draw up a plan to combat jet lag and sleep deprivation.

"I've met with sleep doctors, sports psychologists, neuro-psychologists," Canadian head coach Steve Spott said. "I've met with just about every doctor possible."

The accepted rule is it takes a day for every hour of time difference to adapt. Samuels aims to accelerate the adjustment.

Travel fatigue gets less atten-

tion than jet lag, he says, but for athletes who travel to far-flung places a lot, it can be damaging to performance. The cumulative effects of extensive travel fatigue the body and mind. Even though the Canadian team is only travelling to Ufa once, the distance and time on planes can catch up with them.

Samuels drew up Canada's

'No screwing around'

The Canadian team is currently in training in Finland, a four-hour time difference from Ufa, Russia. The players were on a strict schedule from the moment the wheels went up on their flight from Calgary on Saturday.

- One of the worst things a team can do, says Samuels, is get on the plane exhausted, but it was inevitable some players would be after selection camp.

- "We really talked about on the flight, eye shades, ear plugs, noise-cancellation headphones, all the pillows and comfort you need and the plane is for rest. No screwing around," Samuels said.

Quoted

"It's basically a survival situation if you look at the frequency of games, the time of the games and then the fact there's virtually no time to recover before the finals."

Calgary sleep specialist Dr. Charles Samuels

Refusing to buckle on value of knuckle



New Blue Jays starter R.A. Dickey began toying with the knuckleball in 2005 while with the Texas Rangers and initially struggled with it. But Dickey continued working on the pitch and has enjoyed solid success with it since joining the New York Mets in 2010. MARC SEROTA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

It's quirky, unpredictable and has been described in baseball circles as an oddity and "pitch of last resort."

But the Toronto Blue Jays are banking on R.A. Dickey's dancing knuckleball.

The Jays acquired the National League Cy Young Award winner in a seven-player deal with the Mets on Monday.

Dickey, 38, posted a 20-6 record and 2.73 earned-run average with New York in 2012, but his go-to pitch wasn't a blazing fastball, nasty slider or deep-bending curve. Often he got batters out with the knuckleball, a slow, unassuming pitch that flutters like a butterfly.

By the numbers

4

R.A. Dickey is the fourth pitcher to win the Cy Young only to be traded before the next season, joining David Cone, Pedro Martinez and Roger Clemens.

"This may be a pitch of last resort, which I think is accurate, but think about over history how many last resorts have ended up being successful," Dickey said during a conference call Tuesday. "A lot."

General manager Alex Anthopoulos signed Dickey to a two-year, \$25-million US con-

tract extension with a \$12-million club option for 2016. Dickey is scheduled to earn \$5.25 million in 2013.

"I think Alex should be commended on being able to see past those stereotypical analyses a lot of guys give the pitch as a gimmick or something that isn't legitimate," Dickey said. "I think we can all admit the past year and the past three years in general have been legitimate."

The good news for Toronto is Dickey started six games against the American League over his three seasons in New York, posting a 4-0 record and 1.71 ERA. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

NFL

Judge lowers bond in Cowboy Brent's manslaughter case

A judge ordered Dallas Cowboys nose tackle Josh Brent to wear an electronic monitor pending his trial on an intoxication manslaughter charge in the one-car crash that killed a teammate.

State District Judge Fred Tinsley also lowered Brent's bond from \$500,000 US to \$100,000 on Tuesday. He ordered Brent not to drink alcohol or drive without a valid driver's licence. Prosecutors say Brent was driving with a suspended licence on the night of the Dec. 8 crash that killed friend and Cowboys practice squad member Jerry Brown. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Dallas Cowboys tackle Josh Brent leaves court in Dallas on Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Tennis

Ottawa-born Levine looking to play for Canada

Canada's tennis ranks are getting some reinforcements, but possibly not in time for a high-profile Davis Cup match against Spain in February.

A Tennis Canada spokesman has confirmed that Jesse

Levine is applying to tennis authorities to represent Canada rather than the U.S.

The 25-year-old Levine, currently ranked 104th in the world, was born in Ottawa but moved to the U.S. when he was 13.

The ATP lists his residence as Boca Raton, Fla.

Levine has petitioned the International Tennis Federation to represent Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	18	6	.750	—
Miami	15	6	.714	1½
Atlanta	14	7	.667	2½
Chicago	13	10	.565	4½
Brooklyn	13	10	.565	4½
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	5
Indiana	13	11	.542	5
Boston	12	11	.522	5½
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	6
Orlando	11	13	.458	7
Charlotte	7	16	.304	10½
Detroit	7	20	.259	12½
Toronto	6	19	.240	12½
Cleveland	5	20	.200	13½
Washington	3	18	.143	13½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	18	6	.750	2
San Antonio	19	7	.731	2
Memphis	16	6	.727	3
Golden State	16	8	.667	4
Minnesota	12	10	.545	7
Utah	13	12	.520	7½
Denver	13	12	.520	7½
Houston	12	12	.500	8
Portland	11	12	.478	8½
Dallas	11	13	.458	9
L.A. Lakers	11	14	.440	9½
Phoenix	10	15	.400	10½
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
New Orleans	5	18	.217	14½

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results	
Toronto	at Cleveland
Atlanta	at Washington
Utah	at Brooklyn
Minnesota	at Miami
Boston	at Chicago
Indiana	at Milwaukee
Philadelphia	at Dallas
San Antonio	at Denver
Charlotte	at L.A. Lakers
New Orleans	at Golden State
Monday's results	
Orlando	102 Minnesota 93
Houston	109 New York 96
L.A. Clippers	88 Detroit 76
Memphis	80 Chicago 71
Oklahoma City	107 San Antonio 93
Phoenix	101 Sacramento 90
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern	
Utah	at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit	at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn	at New York, 7 p.m.
Washington	at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City	at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland	at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia	at Houston, 8 p.m.
Charlotte	at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Milwaukee	at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
Golden State	at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
New Orleans	at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.
Thursday's games	
Oklahoma City	at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Miami	at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Denver	at Portland, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS	
MLB	
AMERICAN LEAGUE	
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Koji Uehara on a one-year contract.	
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Named Julio Vinas manager and Britt Burns pitching coach of Birmingham (SL); Ryan Newman manager of Winston-Salem (Carolina); Tommy Thompson manager of Kannapolis (SAL); Pete Rose Jr. manager of Great Falls (Pioneer); Bobby Magallanes manager of Bristol (Appalachian); Doug Sisson minor league outfield/baserunning instructor; and Vance Law special assistant to player development.	
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with 3B Mark Reynolds on a one-year contract.	
HOUSTON ASTROS — Designated RHP Mickey Storey for assignment.	
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with 2B Luis Rodriguez on a minor league contract.	
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Mike Pelfrey on a one-year contract.	
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Traded OF Collin Cowgill to the N.Y. Mets for INF Jeffry Marte. Agreed to terms with SS Hiroyuki Nakajima on a two-year contract.	
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ramon Ortiz and OF Ryan Langerhans on minor league contracts and RHP Roberto Hernandez on a one-year contract.	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Named Pat List-tach minor league infield coordinator; Todd Takayoshi assistant minor league hitting coordinator; Rick Knapp minor league pitching coordinator; John Shoemaker Camelback Ranch-Glendale coordinator of instruction; Franklin Stubbs hitting coach of Albuquerque (PCL); Jody Reed manager, Hector Berrios pitching coach and Orv Franchuk hitting coach of Chattanooga (SL); Carlos Subero manager and Johnny Washington hitting coach of Rancho Cucamonga (Cal); Razor Shines manager, Bill Simas pitching coach and Mike Eylward hitting coach of Great Lakes (MWL); Esteban Lopez hitting coach of Ogden (Pioneer); and P.J. Forbes manager of the Arizona League Dodgers.	
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Named Rick Tomlin minor league pitching coordinator; Bob Skube coach and Aaron Hoback trainer for Nashville (PCL); Steve Patera trainer of Huntsville (SL); Tony Diggs manager and Dwayne Hosey coach of Helena (Pioneer); Nestor Corredor manager and Greg Barajas trainer of the Arizona League Brewers.	
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Agreed to terms with LHP John Lannan on a one-year contract.	
NBA	
HOUSTON ROCKETS — Recalled F/C Donatas Motiejunas from Rio Grande Valley (NBADL).	
NFL	
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed OL Kraig Urbik to a contract extension. Placed LB Arthur Moats on injured reserve and WR Donald Jones on the reserve/non-football illness list. Signed WR Chris Hogan and LB Greg Lloyd from the practice squad.	
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed RB Michael Bush on injured reserve. Signed RB Kahlil Bell.	
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Named Alec Scheiner president. Placed LB James-Michael Johnson and DB T.J. Ward on injured reserve. Signed DB Prince Miller and LB Adrian Moten. Signed DL Hall Davis from the practice squad.	
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed DE Andre Branch and RB Jordan Todman on injured reserve. Released WR Quan Cosby and FB Will Ta'ufu'ou. Signed WR Mike Brown, LB Brandon Marshall and TE Isaiah Stanback from the practice squad and OL Tommie Draheim and WR Brittan Golden to the practice squad.	
NEW YORK GIANTS — Re-signed OL Selvis Capers. Waived CB Terrence Frederick.	
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released TE Evan Moore. Signed TE Sean McGrath from the practice squad.	
CFL	
TORONTO ARGONAUTS — Released PK/P Noel Prefontaine.	
NHL	
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Reassigned F Stanislav Galiev and D Brett Flemming from Reading (ECHL) to Hershey (AHL).	
American Hockey League	
AHL — Suspended Lake Erie LW Patrick Bordeleau three games.	
CONNECTICUT WHALE — Called up D Steven Delisle from Greenville (ECHL).	
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS — Recalled D Patrick Cullity from Idaho (ECHL).	
MLS	
COLUMBUS CREW — Re-signed M Danny O'Rourke to a one-year contract.	
D.C. UNITED — Released M Stephen King and D Michael Chabala.	
FC DALLAS — Signed F Wesley "Pipico" Silva.	

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Portland	27	15	10	1	1	82	83	32
Providence	25	14	9	0	2	61	69	30
Worcester	26	13	10	1	2	72	78	29
Manchester	27	12	11	2	2	75	70	28
St. John's	28	13	14	0	1	66	77	27

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Springfield	25	15	5	2	3	87	58	35
Bridgeport	26	12	11	1	2	79	87	27
Albany	23	9	8	0	6	55	61	24
Connecticut	26	11	13	2	0	74	88	24
Adirondack	25	10	14	1	0	61	75	21

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Syracuse	26	17	6	1	2	95	70	37
Binghamton	22	14	6	1	1	70	53	30
W-B/Scranton	25	13	10	1	1	69	68	28
Hershey	27	13	12	1	1	73	75	28
Norfolk	24	11	12	1	0	69	74	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Abbotsford	26	15	5	3	3	66	62	36
Toronto	25	15	9	0	1	85	68	31
Rochester	24	12	9	2	1	82	76	27
Lake Erie	27	12	13	1	1	82	88	26
Hamilton	24	10	12	1	1	55	76	22

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt
Grand Rapids	24	13	9	1	1	74	70	28
Rockford	27	13	12	1	1	88	86	28
Chicago	24	12	9	2	1	65	71	27
Milwaukee	26	12	11	2	1	73	79	27
Peoria	26	11	11	2	2	63	83	26

Note: Two points awarded for a win, one for an overtime or shootout loss.

Tuesday's result
Hamilton at Peoria

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
Abbotsford at Chicago, 12 p.m.
St. John's at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Portland, 7 p.m.
Norfolk at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Toronto at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Rochester at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
W-B/Scranton at Binghamton, 7:05 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Texas, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday's games
Houston at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Friday's games
Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Abbotsford at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Worcester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
St. John's at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Albany at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Texas at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	10	4	0	.714	506	315
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	255	320
Miami	6	8	0	.429	264	279
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	306	402

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	12	2	0	.857	394	280
Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	309	358
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	285	396
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	219	383

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	348	307
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	355	293
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	302	291
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	280	310

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Denver	11	3	0	.786	409	274
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	299	312
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	263	402
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	195	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	8	6	0	.571	381	350
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	327	338
N.Y. Giants	8	6	0	.571	373	304
Philadelphia	4	10	0	.286	253	375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	371	259
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	389	379
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	354	349
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	296	319

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	344	292
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	319	308
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	321	240
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	330	380

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-San Francisco	10	3	1	.750	357	218
Seattle	9	5	0	.643	350	219
St. Louis	6	7	1	.464	258	315
Arizona	5	9	0	.357	224	302

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.

WEEK 15

Monday's result

Tennessee 14 N.Y. Jets 10

Sunday's results

Washington 38 Cleveland 21

Miami 24 Jacksonville 3

Denver 34 Baltimore 17

Atlanta 34 N.Y. Giants 0

Minnesota 36 St. Louis 22

Houston 29 Indianapolis 17

Green Bay 21 Chicago 13

New Orleans 41 Tampa Bay 0

Seattle 50 Buffalo 17

Carolina 31 San Diego 7

Arizona 38 Detroit 10

Dallas 27 Pittsburgh 24

Oakland 15 Kansas City 0

San Francisco 41 New England 34

WEEK 16

Saturday's game — All Times Eastern

Atlanta at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's games

Minnesota at Houston, 1 p.m.

Tennessee at Green Bay, 1 p.m.

Oakland at Carolina, 1 p.m.

San Diego at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

New England at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.

New Orleans at Dallas, 1 p.m.

St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.

Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.

Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.

Chicago at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.

San Francisco at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.

LATE MONDAY	
TITANS 14, JETS 10	
N.Y. Jets	3 0 7 0—10
Tennessee	0 7 7 0—14
First Quarter	
NYJ—FG Folk 22, 4:17.	
Second Quarter	
Ten—C.Johnson 94 run (Bironas kick), 8:53.	
Third Quarter	
NYJ—Cumberland 17 pass from Sanchez (Folk kick), 3:19.	
Ten—Locker 13 run (Bironas kick), :20.	
Fourth Quarter	
A—69,143.	
TEAM STATISTICS	
	NYJ Ten
First downs	20 12
Total Net Yards	253 294
Rushes-yards	30-146 30-167
Passing	107 127
Punt Returns	1-7 2-3

Kickoff Returns	2-52	3-75
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	4-55
Comp-Att-Int	13-29-4	13-22-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-24	4-22
Punts	6-42.3	10-39.1
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	4-23	14-111
Time of Possession	30:16	29:44
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
RUSHING —N.Y. Jets, Greene 13-68, McKnight 4-29, Powell 6-28, Tebow 3-15, Sanchez 4-6. Tennessee, C.Johnson 21-122, Locker 7-43, Q.Johnson 2-2.		
PASSING —N.Y. Jets, Sanchez 13-28-4-131, Tebow 0-1-0-0. Tennessee, Locker 13-22-0-149.		
RECEIVING —N.Y. Jets, Cumberland 4-53, Edwards 3-47, Powell 2-15, Greene 2-1, Kerley 1-11, Reuland 1-4. Tennessee, Wash-ington 4-62, Wright 3-31, Preston 2-31, Stevens 2-16, Britt 1-7, Q.Johnson 1-2.		
MISSED FIELD GOALS —Tennessee, Bironas 46 (BK).		

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Éric Toulouse, SALES MANAGER

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Civic hits refresh button



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Features

The new Honda Civic's feature list is long, so here's some highlights: Bluetooth for audio and device hook-up, heated front seats, read out and respond for text messages and navigation upgraded with voice recognition, plus a "three-view" rear camera. In fact, a rear-view camera is now standard on EX models.



New stylish features

2013 Honda Civic fast facts

- **Sales.** Canada's top selling car line
- **Engine.** 140 hp, 1.8 litre four-cylinder. Si Coupes and Sedans upgraded to 201 hp.
- **Location.** Most models built in Alliston, Ont.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$15,400

Style changes

The new model flaunts a degree of exterior style and interior finesse not quite evident on the 2012 Civic. In a mid-cycle refresh like this one, about all you're able to change on the outside are front and rear fascia, hood and trunk panels and the wheels. Honda has done that and all to great effect.

Design

The look is wider and lower — slightly more sporty and premium. It now sports exterior bits you've been seeing on higher-end models, like complex headlights, black mesh grille with chrome accents, integrated fog lights (on higher trim lines) and larger, more horizontal taillights that flow into the sides of the car.

Review. New model has learned from mistakes of 2012 Civic

MIKE GOETZ
Drive@metronews.ca

This newly minted 2013 Honda Civic sedan is one unusual automobile. Not weird like it runs on goat cheese, or some other dairy product.

Unusual in that the refresh bestowed upon it for 2013 comes only one model year after it was completely reborn. About 18 months ago, that all-new and ninth-generation 2012 Honda Civic came out to mixed reviews — not so bad that it had any problem at all retaining its mantel as Canada's top-selling passenger car.

But Honda must have been clearly spooked about its initial reception and the subsequent and serious competitive moves made by its competitors in this all-important compact car segment — Canada's largest. Toyota Corolla and Mazda3

have always battled Civic hard, but now there's a whole new and energetic crowd banging on the door (Chevrolet Cruze, Ford Focus, Hyundai Elantra, Dodge Dart, etc.)

"The days when the Civic was just a car for the first time buyer are gone," says Dave Gardner, vice-president of sales and marketing for Honda Canada. "We're now appealing to a significant number of customers who are downsizing from intermediate or larger vehicles."

On top of everything else it offers, it's quieter on the road thanks to new acoustic measures and the new suspension bits, which also reduce NVH. You could ask, why didn't the 2012 Civic come out the gate this way? Another question you could ask is, why don't other automakers have the cojones to react as fast and effectively to correct a vehicle that is not as good as it could be? Good on Honda to make this move, and good on Civic. Your place on top of the Canadian sales charts will surely continue.



The new Civic is quieter on the road, thanks to new acoustic measures and new suspension.



This model flaunts its new wheels.



The navigation system has been upgraded with voice recognition.

With a mechanic's nod you can bank on your Subaru Baja

Second Gear.

2003-2006 Subaru Baja

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

Subaru's Baja, which was available in Canada from 2003 to 2006, was called a 'crossover' vehicle — and featured four doors, roof-rails and a truck-bed in back. A trap door could be opened between the bed and passenger compartment, allowing for extended length cargo to be accommodated.

BAJA's cabin was available with leather, a sunroof, CD player and aluminum trim, so owners after a luxurious and flexible hauler will likely be impressed. A six-way power driver's seat, roof-mounted activity lights, and a bed-cover were available, too.



PHOTO:HANDOUT

Common Issues

A rough idle could indicate an oil-flow problem on turbo-charged engines, caused by a clogged screen in an oil connection. Automatic transmissions could have a leak at the transmission stud, which presents itself as a blood-red fluid apparent near the engine's oil filter. Have a used Subaru Baja jacked into the air at a dealership so a mechanic can inspect

crucial parts for damage or abuse. Any leaks, scrapes, dents or excessive rust can be called into pricing negotiations. While there, a mechanic can check for the performance of any recall-related work, in this case dealing with the water pump pulley, a loosely-mounted oil-control valve and a defective 'park rod' in the automatic transmission.

Engine

Power came from a 2.5 litre boxer engine, developing 165 horsepower driving all four wheels via a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual gearbox. After the first year of sales, a turbo-charged engine was available with 210 horsepower.



What owners like

Turbocharged performance, relative fuel efficiency, flexibility, rarity and 'cool factor' were all highly rated, as was performance in snowy or slippery conditions.



What owners dislike

Sluggish performance on automatic/non-turbo models, a small bed and seating for only four occupants were among the most common complaints.



Verdict

Many pickups and SUVs larger and thirstier than the Baja have a mile-long list of concerns and recalls to watch out for, so if Baja's right for you (and you can find one), buy confidently if the model checks out mechanically.

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2012 Chevrolet Cruze LS+ R7B and 2013 Chevrolet (Equinox LS FWD G-BBQG/Silverado 1500 LS Ext. Cab 4WD G-BBQN). ♦\$2,000/\$500/\$6,000/\$11,500 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2012 Chevrolet Cruze/2013 Chevrolet Equinox/2013 Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab/2012 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. & Crew Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. **Freight & PDI (\$1,495/\$1,495/\$1,500/\$1,495/\$1,500), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2012/2013 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ***Factory order or dealer trade may be required. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. @Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG Inc. ♦Comparison based on 2012 Wards segmentation: Middle/Cross Utility Vehicle and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ††2013 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies \$37,649. 2013 Silverado 1500 LT Ext. Cab with PDI & S80, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies \$45,844. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **Offer available to retail customers in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Territories between December 17, 2012 and December 30, 2012. Applies to new 2012 Chevrolet Sonic and Cruze and 2013 GM vehicles excluding 2013 Chevrolet Camaro, Corvette, Volt, Spark, Orlando, Express, Traverse, and Trax, GMC Savana and Acadia, Buick Enclave and Encore, and Cadillac ATS and XTS at participating dealers in Canada. Employee price includes freight and PDI but excludes license, insurance, registration, fees associated with filing at movable property registry/PPSA fees, duties, marketing fees and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Limited quantities of 2012 models available. Dealer order or trade may be required. Offer may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. See dealer for details. †To qualify for GMCL's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must: (1) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured in your name for the last 3 months (2) turn in a 2006 or older MY vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and properly insured under a small business name for the last 3 months. GMCL will provide eligible consumers with a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) to be used towards the purchase/finance/lease of a new eligible 2012 or 2013 MY Chevrolet Colorado, GMC Canyon, Chevrolet Silverado, GMC Sierra, or Chevrolet Avalanche delivered between October 2, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Incentive ranges from \$1500 to \$3,000, depending on model purchased. Incentive may not be combined with certain other offers. By participating in the Cash For Clunkers program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your vehicle. See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate program in whole or in part at any time without notice.

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HONDA

¹\$1,000 Honda Dollars offer applies only to retail customer purchase or lease agreements for new 2012 Honda Civic Coupe and Sedan models (except Civic Hybrid models) // 2012 Honda CR-V models concluded between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. \$1,000 Honda Dollars must be applied towards the purchase or lease of an eligible vehicle, Honda accessories, extended warranty and are deducted after taxes.

²Receive 1.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2CEX) for a maximum of 84 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Bi-weekly Finance example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic DX Sedan (Model FB2E2CEX) equals 182 bi-weekly payments of \$97 over an 84 month term at 1.99% APR, complete selling price of \$16,520 [includes \$1,495 freight and PDI, EHF tires (\$29), EHF filters (\$1), A/C tax (\$100 except Honda Civic DX), and OMVIC fee (\$5)]. Excludes taxes, license, insurance, and registration. Cost of borrowing is \$1,190.42 for a total finance obligation of \$17,710.42. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. ³Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RM3H3CE) // 2013 Honda Accord LX (Model CR2E3DE) on a 36 // 36 month term at 0.99% // 2.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is \$288.00 // \$257.99 [includes \$1,640 freight and PDI, EHF tires (\$29), EHF filters (\$1), A/C tax (\$100), and OMVIC fee (\$5)] with \$4,678 // \$3,929 down payment or equivalent trade-in, \$0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$15,046.00 // \$13,216.64. 72,000 // 72,000-kilometre allowance; charge of \$0.12/km for excess kilometres. ⁴\$5,000 customer cash incentive is valid on any new 2012 Honda Pilot // 2012 Honda Ridgeline // 2012 Honda Crosstour models when registered and delivered between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013. Cash incentive is available for all Honda retail customers except customers who lease or finance through Honda Financial Services Inc. at a subvented rate of interest offered by Honda as part of a low rate interest program. All advertised lease and finance rates are special rates. Cash incentive will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. \$5,000 Honda Dollars offer applies only to retail customer purchase or lease agreements for all new 2012 Honda models (except 2012 Honda Civic Coupe and Sedan // 2012 Honda CR-V) concluded between December 1, 2012 and January 2, 2013 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. \$500 Honda Dollars are deducted after taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details. ⁵Cargo space calculated on volume behind second-row seats with rear-seats up for two-row vehicles in segment and third-row seats with rear seats up for three-row vehicles in segment. Compact Segment classification based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC). All measurements sourced from data published by each manufacturer. ⁶Does not replace the driver's responsibility to exercise due care while driving. ⁷Text message and e-mail functions are only compatible with certain devices. ⁸Based on Association of International Automobile Manufacturers of Canada (AIAMC) data reflecting sales between 1997 and December 2011.

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Pop open a wheelie

The golden olden days. Hobby-grade slot cars continue their cult status with children and adults alike



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Christmas morning is always fun. But it can never be as fun as it was on those magical Christmas mornings, when you were in your prime toy-yearning years.

First you don't get the Santa thing. Then, Santa and Christmas morning are everything. Then you gradually get jaded by the whole thing and start getting up later and later on Christmas morning. The window is actually quite small for really getting into it, but when you're into it, you're into it hard.

And it was in that glorious window that Santa once dropped off for me the actual Eldon slot car racing set I feverishly desired.

Net result: best Christmas present ever.

I still have the two slot cars that came with the set — an original Ford Mustang Fastback and a Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Coupe.

Back then (the mid-to-

late 1960s), slot car racing sets were one of the prime Christmas toys for boys.

"You'd go to an Eaton's store back then, and there would be four or five tracks set up for kids to play and try," remembers Ernie Mossetti, who has been a slot car retailer since 1988, and a slot car aficionado virtually all his life. "I was born in 1956, and got my first slot car in 1964."

The slot car's reign on

Vroom

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... or say they are buying a set for their kids."

Ernie Mossetti, slot car retailer and aficionado
On the popularity of the classic toy

top of the toy kingdom didn't last long. Mossetti says things were pretty much over by the late '60s.

Slot car sets are now just another toy among thousands. But "hobby grade" slot cars continue their cult status with adult aficionados, and some young folks as well.

Mossetti currently operates two slot car related concerns — raceworldcanada.com and mr.slotcar.ca — the former's an online

store and the latter a line of professional grade slot cars designed by Mossetti (he's an industrial designer by trade). He notes that sets from Germany's Carrera and Britain's Scalextric continue to dominate the current market.

Mossetti says kids don't get exposed to the slot car world like they used to — there is little advertising or promotion. And these days, you have to go to a hobby store or an online store to get your actual slot car stuff.

"Fortunately there are still enough dads out there who had one, and who want to buy a set for their kids ... Or say they are buying the set for their kids."

Ouch, I resemble that last remark.

When our son, Jared, was four, he got from Santa a starter Scalextric set, with an Indy 500 theme. In retrospect, he was too young for it. Whenever he and his buddies played with it, they would simply hold the controller throttle on full blast, all the time. The beautifully detailed Indy racers were flying and crashing all over the living room. As designated first responder, I was very busy retrieving the cars and setting them back gently on the track, only to see them fly off of the track on the next lap.

But I didn't mind. They moved onto other activities eventually. Then I would have the track all to myself.

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GT model shown

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†0% APR Purchase Financing is available on all new 2012 and 2013 Mazda vehicles. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of \$23,995 for the new 2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00) with a financed amount of \$20,000, the cost of borrowing for an 84-month term is \$0, monthly payment is \$238.10, total finance obligation is \$20,000. Q.No Payments for 90 Days (payment deferral) offer is available on all new in-stock 2012 and 2013 Mazda models and only applies to purchase finance offers on approved credit. No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period interest will begin to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. Offer period December 1st, 2012 - January 2nd, 2013. *No purchase necessary. Closes Jan 2/13 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Open to legal residents of Canada (age of majority). Earn one entry with the purchase, finance or lease of a new 2012/2013 Mazda vehicle from a participating authorized Mazda dealership in Canada. One prize available in each of the following regions: (i) West (BC, YK); (ii) Prairies (AB, SK, MB, NWT); (iii) Central (ON, NV); (iv) Quebec (QC); and Atlantic (NFLD, NB, NS and PEI). Each prize consists of a reimbursement of the value of the vehicle purchased (inclusive of fees and taxes) - up to a maximum of \$30,000 CAD. Skill-testing question required. Odds depend on number of eligible entries. Full rules (including no purchase entry details) at www.mazda.ca. ††Finance Pricing for new 2012 Mazda3 GX w/AC (D4SX52AB00)/2012 Mazda3 GS-SKY (D4SK62AA00)/2012 Mazda5 GS (E6SD62AA00)/2012 CX-9 GS AWD (QXSB82AA00)/2013 Mazda6 GS-14 (G4SY83AA00) is \$19,145/\$21,151/\$23,995/\$39,495/\$27,295 financed at 0%/0%/0%/0% over 84/84/84/84 months equals bi-weekly payments of \$99/\$110/\$129/\$206/\$144 with \$1,050/\$1,050/\$1,950/\$1,950/\$1,050 down payment, cost of borrowing is \$0/\$0/\$0/\$0/\$0 with a total obligation of \$19,145/\$21,151/\$23,995/\$39,495/\$27,295. ♦Please note: there are nine 2012 Mazda3 GX w/AC (D4SX52AB00) models available in Ontario as of the start of this promotion. ♦Based on highway driving only. ♦Mazda Owner Loyalty Cash Offer is available to returning Mazda owners and applies to all new 2012 and 2013 Mazda6 models and may be combined with all other current retail offers. No cash surrender value. See dealer for complete details. ▲Offered Pricing for new 2013 CX-5 GX (NVXK63AA00) is \$24,995. As shown, Offered Pricing for 2013 CX-5 GT AWD (NXTK83AA00) is \$34,850. All offers include freight/P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. †5.7 L/100 km (50 MPG) Highway/7.8 L/100 km (36 MPG) City - Based on ENERGYGUIDE Fuel Consumption Rating for the 2013 CX-5 with 6-speed manual transmission. These estimates are based on Government of Canada approved criteria and testing methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary. MPG is listed in Imperial gallons. PPSA, licence, insurance, taxes and down payment are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid December 1st, 2012 - January 2nd, 2013 while supplies last. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details. © Bluetooth is a registered trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

You can be as adventurous as you please now, knowing that nothing bad will come of it. Make use of the Sun's final few days in sympathetic Sagittarius to have fun. Forget about yesterday, it's today that matters.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Money may be a little tight at the moment but that is no reason to deny yourself the good things in life. On the contrary, you will feel better about yourself if you splash out a bit — but not too much.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

Thought may be your natural medium but with love planet Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart you want to express yourself not only mentally but romantically too. Give the object of your affection your full attention.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 23

If you need help, you must ask for it. No one will think any the less of you if you request assistance. On the contrary, they will admire your maturity. Neither success nor self-worth have anything to do with separation.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

The more you have been working on serious things, the more you owe it to yourself to have some fun. Social activities, as well as an affair of the heart, will bring you a great deal of pleasure over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Today's rather unusual events will convince you that important objectives can only be reached if you are prepared to meet other people halfway. That applies not only to your allies but to your rivals too.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Most of the time your head rules your heart, but today the opposite will be true. You will allow your feelings to dictate what you say and do. Nothing bad will come of it. In fact, you will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Calm down and stop taking what other people say so seriously. Yes, of course, some individuals can be a complete pain but if you let them upset you it means they have won. It's life — learn to laugh at it.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Take your pleasures where you find them and don't give a thought to what is going on around you. Is that irresponsible? Some people may think so but you have done your bit for world peace — now you want a piece of the action.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Most of the time you think and behave rationally but the planets warn that your feelings could get the better of you today. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that so long as they are positive and loving feelings.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Stick to what you do best and don't let others involve you in things you have next to no interest in. There is only so much that any one person can do and you'll do your bit better if it inspires you.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

You will find yourself up against someone who speaks and acts a bit too aggressively today but you must not react in kind. Smile, talk softly and reasonably and let them see you are beyond their reach. You win.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

Across

1. Package request (abbr.)

4. Breakfast choice

7. Headliner

11. Extremely dry

13. Seminary subj.

14. Skin opening

15. Renounce

17. "Far out!"

18. Trucker's radio, for short

19. Occasions

22. Rate

26. Little Rock st.

27. Victory sign

28. Exclamation of surprise

30. At no time

34. Writer Levin

35. Whacks, as a housefly

37. Silkworm

38. Perry Mason's secretary

40. Musical note

41. Toss out

42. Knight of Grey's Anatomy

43. Busy — — (3 words)

46. Archie Bunker's offspring

50. — the World Turns

51. Cut back

52. Careless

58. General vicinity

60. Battery sz.

61. Church section

62. Car mishap

63. Skillet

64. Pouch

Down

1. Canadian Auto Association

2. Sphere

3. "I Know What You — Last Summer"

4. Long, long time

5. — Smart

6. Jane Lynch series

7. She played Emily Hartley on The Bob Newhart Show (init.)

8. Severed

9. I smell - — (2 words)

10. Lipstick colours

12. Recipe direction

16. Survivor network

20. Moving vehicles

21. Sooner than, poetically

22. Eager

23. Dried

24. Circus barker

25. Farm mother

29. Sandwich filler

31. Part of speech

32. A great lake

33. Take the subway

35. Indian dress

36. — Maria (coffee liqueur)

39. Common paper sz.

44. Tree fluid

45. Business abbr.

46. Pleased

47. Knowledge

48. — Mike with Mike Bullard

49. Memo abbr.

53. Half a Teletubbie

54. McShane or Ziering

55. The Hour — 22 Minutes

56. Eggs

57. Winter mo.

59. One Day — a Time

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	8	3	6	2	8	5	4
9	4	2	7	5	8	6	1	3
6	3	5	4	1	8	8	7	2
1	8	9	2	7	4	3	8	5
3	7	4	5	8	6	1	2	9
2	5	6	8	3	1	4	5	7
5	8	7	8	4	3	2	9	1
4	2	1	6	9	6	7	3	8
8	9	3	1	2	7	5	4	6

Today

0°/-7°
Variable

Thursday

1°/0°
Variable

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FOR
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HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown



HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

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\$3,500 WITH **0%[†]**
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SONATA GL AUTO. DELIVERY,
DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

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PAY
FOR
90
DAYS[¶]**



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HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

\$1,150 WITH **0%[†]**
IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS[‡] FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

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SELLING PRICE \$27,245***

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO. DELIVERY,
DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

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PAY
FOR
90
DAYS[¶]**



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